

Unfortunately, when calculating lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions, EPA has included theoretical indirect land use changes.

As the theory goes, increased production of biofuels leads to more grain being used for biofuels and less being exported to foreign markets. Allegedly, this decrease in exports means additional grain production is required in other parts of the world, creating increased cultivation in those areas. Proponents of this way of thinking say forests in other parts of the world are being converted to crops to substitute for the missing U.S. grain.

However, that is all it is, an unsubstantiated theory, an argument that just doesn't hold water. Pure bunk.

As an example, in 2004, over 10,000 square miles of the Amazon was deforested. In 2008—the peak year for ethanol production to date—that number dropped to under 5,000 square miles. How is that possible?

Due to significant technological advances and ever-increasing efficiency, the American farmer continues to meet the demand for food, feed, and biofuel. For instance, in 1980, the average corn yield per acre in this country was 91 bushels. Last year, it was 153.9 bushels—a 70-percent increase in productivity.

In fact, this spring, American farmers will use almost exactly the same amount of acres for corn production as they did 30 years ago—about 85 million acres. Yet the productivity advances mean we will likely harvest roughly 6 billion bushels more corn on the exact same amount of land.

The soybean industry can tell a similar story. In 1980, American farmers produced just under 1.8 billion total bushels of soybeans on 69.5 million acres. In 2007—almost 30 years later—they produced almost 2.7 billion bushels on 64.7 million acres. That is a production increase of nearly a billion bushels, on 5 million fewer acres.

So the facts seem clear. Even as the production of biofuels increases, deforestation rates have been cut in half just in the last 5 years.

Clearly, no reliable or accepted model for measuring indirect land use change exists. Projection models for indirect land use are based on assumptions about how landowners made choices about what to do with their land. And unless the EPA has recently hired mind-readers, they might as well be playing pin the tail on the donkey.

Calculating emissions from indirect land use changes is such an inexact science; it is really no science at all. There is literally no way to know if what you come up with is accurate.

Our farmers and ethanol producers should not be held responsible for land use decisions made half way around the world, especially when they are based on untested and unreliable assumptions.

Just last year, the President's own Interior Secretary, Ken Salazar—then a sitting U.S. Senator—signed a letter

to EPA stating that EPA's calculations pertaining to indirect land use are based on "incomplete science and inaccurate assumptions."

For all these reasons, today I sent a letter to EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson requesting a 120-day extension of the deadline for the public comment period on the RFS. EPA needs adequate time to hear from impacted industries and organizations about the potentially devastating effects of these untested, unreliable indirect land use calculations. I hope the EPA will give serious consideration to my request.

Additionally, I am cosponsoring S. 943 and S. 1148, both bills that would remove indirect land use assumptions from the renewable fuel standard. Doing so does not in any way impact emissions reductions requirements. The requirements remain intact and the same goals can be reached. These bills will simply remove a very untested, incomplete, assumption-based factor from the equation.

And while the environmental benefits of ethanol have been well-documented, the RFS was enacted to increase our energy security and decrease our dependence on foreign oil. Right now, over 60 percent of our oil is imported from other countries. Much of it comes from countries that, put very simply, don't like us very much. We have to take steps to become less reliant on these nations for our energy needs and more reliant on ourselves, and the RFS does that.

For example, the production and use of 9 billion gallons of ethanol in 2008 displaced the need for over 320 million barrels of oil. This is the equivalent of eliminating oil imports from Venezuela for 10 months. Put another way, it represents the equivalent of 33 days' worth of oil imports. Those are not insignificant numbers.

An expanded ethanol industry has yielded another very important result: rural economic development. Using my home state of Nebraska as an example, ethanol has clearly benefitted many rural communities.

Almost 10 years ago, as Governor of Nebraska, I supported several initiatives to incentivize what was then a relatively small ethanol industry. Well, today Nebraska is the Nation's second largest ethanol producer.

Nebraska currently has 20 operational ethanol plants, with a combined production capacity of over 1.3 billion gallons of ethanol each year. These plants represent more than \$1.4 billion in capital investment and provide direct employment for roughly 1,000 Nebraskans.

Energy security, economic development, environmental improvement, these issues are all connected. And ethanol and our Nation's farmers have contributed to each in a positive way.

As elected officials we should support the biofuels industry, not undermine it. Basing our energy policy on some unsubstantiated theory regarding indirect land use is the wrong approach.

With the passage of the RFS, Congress asked farmers and biofuel producers to significantly expand and increase their production levels. Let's not pull the rug out from under them with unwise policies.

I am proud to cosponsor S. 943 and S. 1148 and encourage my colleagues to do the same.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

COMMENDING SALVATORE "TORRE" M. MERINGOLO

• Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today I pay special tribute to the outstanding accomplishments of Salvatore M. Meringolo, vice president for development at St. Mary's College since 1997.

Mr. Meringolo leaves a remarkable record of accomplishment at St. Mary's College. He was hired 15 years ago as director of the library and information services and directed a comprehensive modernization effort that encompassed library partnerships with the University of Maryland System and raised \$2 million for the library's endowment.

During his tenure as vice president for development, St. Mary's endowment has grown from less than \$5 million to more than \$24 million. Moreover, Mr. Meringolo pursued Federal funding strategies that have yielded more than \$6 million for programs such as St. Mary's River Project and campus IT networking infrastructure.

For the past 3 years, Mr. Meringolo has served as secretary to the Board of Trustees. I had the honor of serving on the board from 1988–1999. He has provided staff support to the board's development, governance, and executive committees.

Mr. Meringolo often represents the college in the local community, having served as vice president of the Patuxent Partnership, as a member of the Navy Alliance, and the college's representative to the Economic Development Commission of St. Mary's County.

When the college and Historic St. Mary's City joined forces to create the \$65 million Maryland Heritage Project, Mr. Meringolo worked to ensure a compelling and timely application. The facilities of St. Mary's College were reshaped over the last decade as a result of the Maryland Heritage Project.

The challenge presented by St. Mary's small-scale and modest resources was largely overcome by the talents of this very thoughtful and experienced individual. The college has experienced enormous growth in the last 15 years and much of that growth can be attributed to Mr. Meringolo's leadership.

I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding the many accomplishments of Torre Meringolo and in wishing him success in his future endeavors.●

COMMENDING JANE MARGARET O'BRIEN

• Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today I pay special tribute to the outstanding accomplishments of Jane Margaret O'Brien, Ph.D. president of St. Mary's College since 1996. I was a member of the St. Mary's Board of Trustees and have known Maggie for many years. I have the utmost respect for her and what she has been able to accomplish at St. Mary's during her tenure.

During her 13 years as president, the College has distinguished itself as a premier honors college that excels at scholarship, research, creative thinking, community engagement, and an appreciation and commitment to world issues, cultures, and communities.

Dr. O'Brien provided critical guidance to the development of the college's external relations and fundraising efforts during its transition to the Honors College Curriculum. Fundraising during Dr. O'Brien's tenure has profoundly reshaped the college's scholarships, professorships, lecture and learning series, arts, athletic, and community programs.

I will provide two examples of Dr. O'Brien's wonderful legacy. The Center for the Study of Democracy, an advisory board on which I have had the pleasure of serving since 2002, was established with a \$2 million National Endowment for the Humanities—NEH—grant and challenge matches. The center is a leading programmatic initiative between the college and neighboring Historic St. Mary's City. This relationship continues to flourish with the opportunity for students to serve as Maryland Heritage Scholars and for faculty from the college and the city to serve as Maryland Heritage Fellows.

The Centre for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, where Dr. O'Brien will continue her work for St. Mary's, was founded in 1975 for two purposes: to establish in Oxford a permanent institute for the interdisciplinary study of the Middle Ages and Renaissance, and to provide academic training for overseas students who wish to study at Oxford.

I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding Maggie O'Brien for her stellar leadership at St. Mary's College and in wishing her success in her continuing work on behalf of this unique institution.●

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF PARK RIVER, NORTH DAKOTA

• Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I wish today to recognize a community in North Dakota that will be celebrating its 125th anniversary. On July 2–5, 2009, the residents of Park River will gather to celebrate their community's history and founding.

The town of Park River was founded in 1884. It was named for its location on the Park River. The river itself was named by pioneer fur trader Alexander Henry, to note the corrals or parks

that the Assiniboine Indians had built by the river to herd wild animals.

Park River's town motto, "Park River, The Town with a Heart," truly captures the essence of the community where people are always willing to lend a helping hand. The town's all volunteer ambulance service, the Walsh County EMS, operates 24 hours a day and demonstrates the town's willingness to help each other out.

Today, the town's economy is mostly agricultural based, but also does focus on incorporating businesses in the technology and health care sector. Park River's health care industry is epitomized by its state-of-the-art hospital, First Care Health Center. This center has been providing quality medical care for the past 55 years to the residents of Park River and those in surrounding communities.

To celebrate their 125th anniversary, the people of Park River have planned a number of events including a polka fest, talent show, fireworks, road rally, an all class reunion, an American Legion baseball reunion game, and a parade that will be held on July 4th.

Mr. President, I ask the Senate to join me in congratulating Park River, ND, and its residents on their first 125 years and in wishing them well through the next century. By honoring Park River and all the other historic small towns of North Dakota, we keep the great pioneering frontier spirit alive for future generations. It is places such as Park River that have helped to shape this country into what it is today, which is why this fine community is deserving of our recognition.

Park River has a proud past and a bright future.●

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF CANDO, NORTH DAKOTA

• Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I am pleased today to recognize a community in North Dakota that is celebrating its 125th anniversary. On July 2–5, the residents of Cando will gather to celebrate their community's history and founding.

Founded in 1884, Cando was designated the county seat for Towner County and named for the "Can Do" spirit of the pioneers. That spirit is still visible in this active community, where hunting, fishing, camping, and bird-watching are all popular activities. In fact, ducks are so common to the area that Cando is known as the duck capital of North Dakota.

This active community, located in north-central North Dakota, is home to two museums, a golf course, bowling alley, and many thriving businesses.

In honor of Cando's 125th anniversary, town officials have organized activities including a golf tournament, street dance, folk dance, parade, potluck, tractor pull, and variety show.

Mr. President, I ask the Senate to join me in congratulating Cando, ND, and its residents on their first 125 years and in wishing them well in the future.

By honoring Cando and all other historic small towns of North Dakota, we keep the great pioneering frontier spirit alive for future generations. It is places such as Cando that have helped shape this country into what it is today, which is why this fine community is deserving of our recognition.

Cando has a proud past and a bright future.●

COMMENDING LARRY G. ROBERTSON

• Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, today, I honor the service of a great Arkansan. Captain Larry G. Robertson will retire at the end of this month after proudly serving in the Arkansas State Police for 32 years, providing protection and assistance to Arkansans across the State.

Captain Robertson's record of accomplishment spans three decades. He began his law enforcement career in 1973 as Star City, AR, chief of police before he was commissioned on January 17, 1977, as a state trooper assigned to the highway patrol division, troop E headquartered in Dumas, AR. Robertson distinguished himself in the line of duty and worked his way up the promotion ladder quickly from the rank of sergeant, to lieutenant, and finally, in 1999, to the rank of captain, highway patrol commander, troop F, the largest geographical troop in the State covering nine counties in southeast Arkansas.

Under Captain Robertson's leadership as troop F commander, his troopers consistently led the State in DWI arrests and other activities despite having fewer personnel than most other troops. His dedication to keeping his fellow Arkansans safe extended beyond the highway patrol division. During his 30 years of service, he led the Arkansas motor vehicle inspection team and served as a sniper and later commander of troop E special response team.

Captain Robertson retires from the Arkansas State Police on June 30, 2009. His commitment to excellence sets an example for not only his fellow law enforcement officers, for whom he is a mentor and friend, but also for those in the civilian community he worked diligently to protect. Although he will be missed in the line of duty, I wish him continued success in his retirement and thank him for his service to our great State of Arkansas.●

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF McLAUGHLIN, SOUTH DAKOTA

• Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize McLaughlin, SD. Founded in 1909, the city of McLaughlin will celebrate its 100th anniversary this year.

Named after MAJ James McLaughlin, the city of McLaughlin is located in Corson County. McLaughlin possesses the strong sense of community that makes South Dakota a great place to work and live. Throughout its